Setting up of new universities

318 SHRIRAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

whether UGC has finalized plans for setting up of new universities in the country during 2008-09 towards achieving the target of setting up of 100 new universities during the coming few years;

if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

whether educational trusts or other private organizations etc. are proposed to be involved in the task; and

if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The University Grants Commission (UGC) does not set up new universities in the country. However, during the Eleventh Plan it is proposed to set up 30 Central Universities, including 16 in the States, which do not have Central Universities and 14 World Class Univiersities. The locations of World Class Universities have not yet been finalized.

Assistance to improve infrastructure in schools

319. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that Government is providing Rs. 4,000 crores to Andhra Pradesh for improving the infrastructure in 10,000 schools;

if so, the details thereof;

whether it is also a fact that Rs. 2,000 crores would be provided this year to improve the infrastructure in 1,300 schools; and

if so, the details thereof, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) The total approved outlay for Andhra Pradesh under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan for the year 2007-08 is 1246.07 crore, which includes, *inter alia,* targets for construction of 173 schools, 7679 additional classrooms and appointment of 1633 teachers. Under the centrally sponsored scheme "Information and Communication Technology in schools", Rs. 37.50 crore has been released to Andhra Pradesh.

Grading of universities and colleges by NAAC

320. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that 13 years after it was set up, the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) has been able to grade only 140 out of India's 409 universities and 3,492 out of 20,676 colleges in the country;

whether it is also a fact that NAAC grading is optional for higher educational bodies and many colleges are not aware of NAAC and benefits of its accreditation; and